

Historic Place Documentation Worksheet

Church Area:

Europe

Country:

Wales

Historic place name:

Stooper Mill

(sometimes spelled 'Stuper Mill')

Closest street Address:

Brandy Brook Caravan and Camp Site,
Roch, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire,
Wales, UK. SA62 6HE

GPS coordinates:

51°52'25.5"N

5°04'32.6"W

Property Owner

	Church-owned
X	Privately-owned
	Government-owned
	Other

Name and contact information of owner:

Ms Alys Daye

Start Naked Farm, Hayscastle,
Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire SA62 5PS

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Current Use:

Stooper Mill was demolished in the late twentieth century by the then owner of the land (where a caravan park/campsite is now situated), as the building was in disrepair and considered hazardous. The millstones have however been preserved on-site.

Physical description:

Stone-built corn mill, one of four situated on Brandy Brook between Hayscastle and Roch Bridge (the only one remaining being Roch Mill, further down the Brook, which has been fully restored).

Have you taken photographs of the place to be included with this form:

	No
X	Yes

Photograph 1: Stooper Mill at dusk
(probably 1970s)

Photograph 2: Former site of Stooper Mill in 2017

Photograph 3: Watercolour painting of Stooper Mill by Harry Johnson

Photograph 1: Stoooper Mill at dusk (probably 1970s)



Photograph: Ron Dennis

This photograph was taken late in the day. However it clearly shows a stone building of some size. The current owner of the site remembers that the original roof was of slate. The barns where the corn was stored while waiting to be ground have been converted into the site shop and a laundry for use of caravan owners.

Photograph 2: Former site of Stoooper Mill (2017)



Photograph: Ian Govier

Photograph 2 shows the approximate site of the mill, just below the present car park. Water from Brandy Brook (which runs behind where the photographer would have been standing to take this photograph) was diverted to power the mill wheel.

Photograph 3: Watercolour painting of Stooper Mill by Harry Johnson

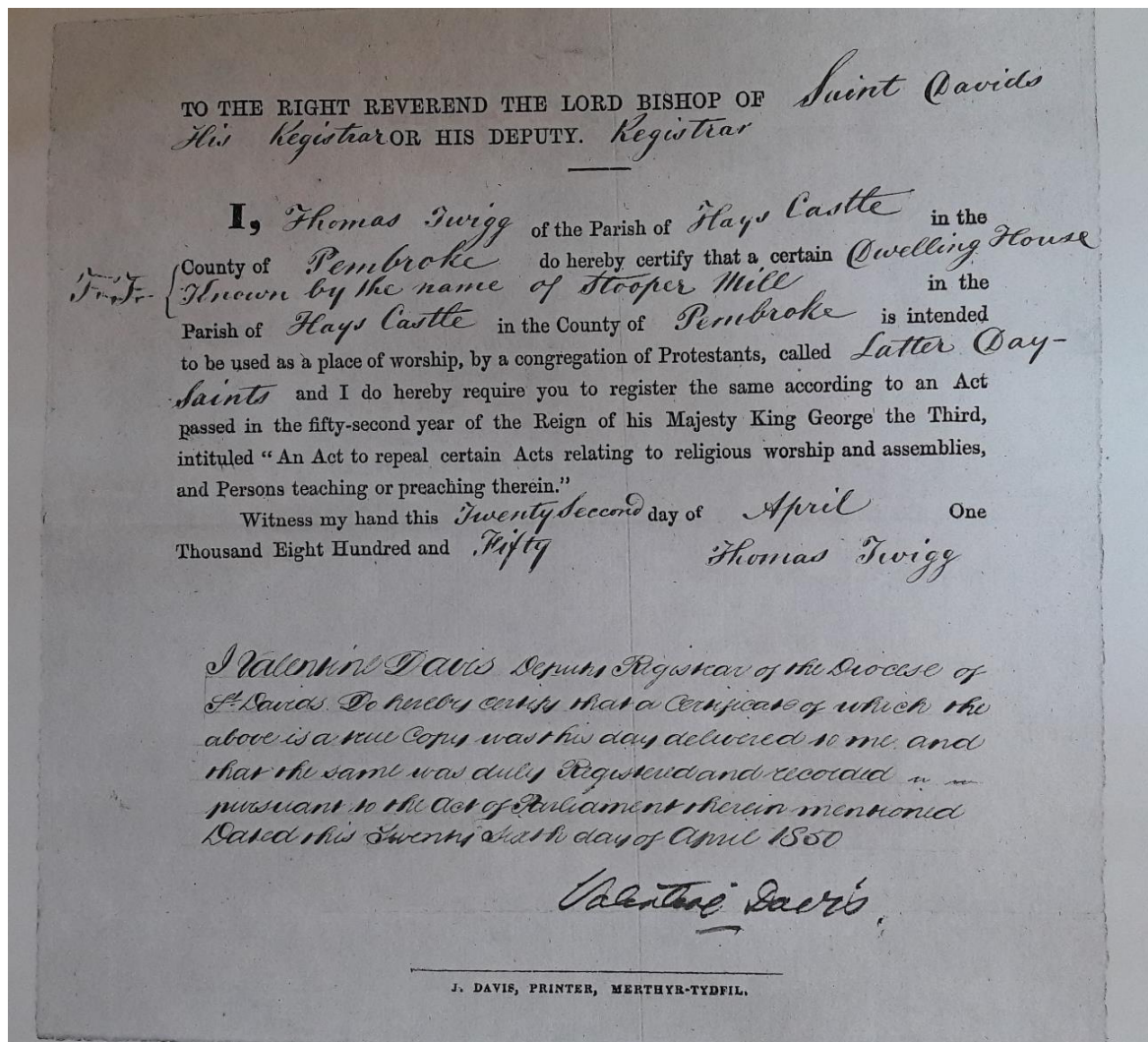


Photograph: Ian Govier

Mr Johnson and his family were regular summer visitors to Brandy Brook caravan/camp site. This watercolour is one of two he painted, and was completed in 1980. Ms Alys Daye, owner of the site, has the originals of both paintings.

Why is this place important?

Stooper Mill was registered for use as a meeting house for the LDS church in the mid-nineteenth century (see image below). Thomas Twigg, the miller at the time, registered the building for worship, as required by law for protestants – often then referred to as ‘dissenters’ (i.e. dissenters from the Established Church or Church of England).

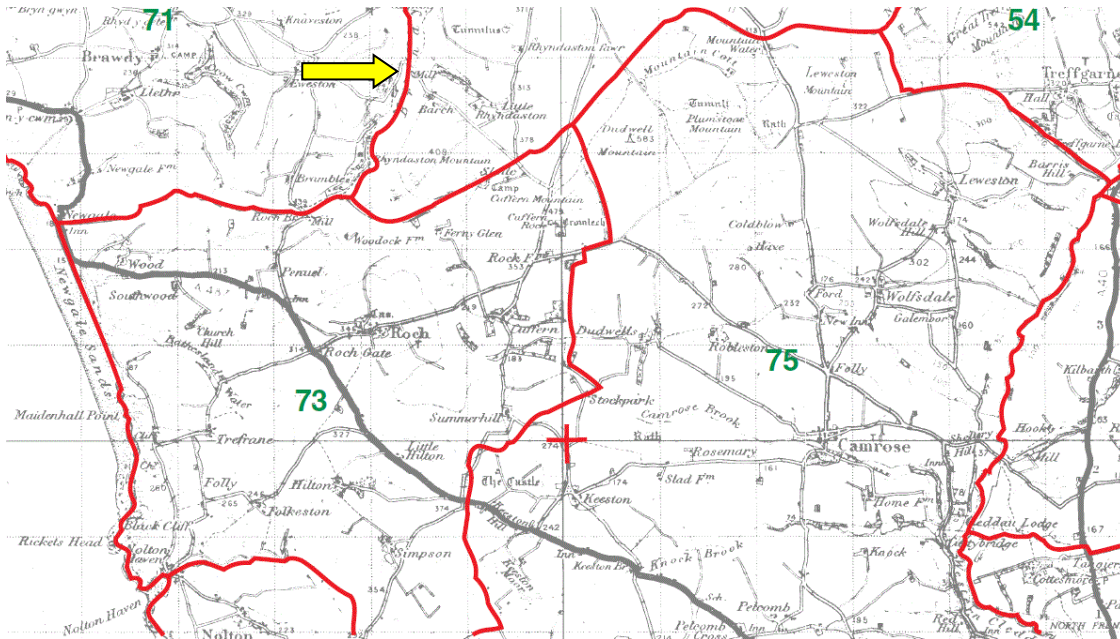


Document courtesy of the National Library of Wales

Cuffern Mountain (or Mynydd Cyffern) was the local branch of the church in 1851, and we know from the records held in the Church History Library in Salt Lake City that the branch existed from at least 1849 to 1876. Those records are largely in Welsh and there is evidence that the branch also met elsewhere (at the home of a James Thomas in 1856, for example) as Thomas Twigg, the miller at Stoopers Mill, had died by then and the 1861 census shows that the mill had changed hands.

Additional Information:

The map below shows the location of the mill on Brandy Brook. The dark gray line which crosses the map (bottom centre to top left) is the current A487, the main road from Haverfordwest to Saint Davids.



The 1841 census shows Stoopers Mill, Hays Castle, with miller Thomas TWIGG and Martha (both listed as age 60) and their two children, Jane (20) and John (25).

Note: For the 1841 census, ages were often rounded to the nearest zero or 5 by the census enumerator, so these will not always match ages in subsequent census records.

The 1851 census shows Thomas Twigg, a widower, at Stoopers Mill as follows:

HAYSCASTLE, Pembrokeshire

Stoopers Mill

Thomas TWIGG	Head	Widr	70	Miller	born: Walton, Pembs
John TWIGG	Son	Mar.	31	Miller	born: Talbenny, Pembs
Martha TWIGG	Dau-in-law		32	Miller's wife	born: Camrose, Pembs

On May 15 1852 travelling elder Daniel Williams notes in his journal that he and President John Price slept the night at 'Stoopers Mill (John Twigg's house) on the way from Haverfordwest and Castle Kedin for the Northern conference.'

Important individuals associated with the place:

John and Martha Twigg

According to John Twigg's biography, his father Thomas had joined the church and intended to emigrate to America, with John and his brother William's family in 1854, but changed his mind. This could well have been a result of William dying in January 1854; Thomas himself died the following year. John and his wife Martha (nee Reed) did emigrate, together with William's widow Mary and her six children. John and Martha had both been baptized in August 1849, then in 1850 he was called as Treasurer of the Perpetual Emigration Fund for the Cuffern Mountain branch. In May 1851, he and his second cousin George Twigg were called to be the counselors to George Thomas, President of Cuffern Mountain and Simpson branch. Then in October of that year, when two branches were formed, John was called as Branch President for Cuffern Mountain. John and Martha had no children of their own but William's widow Mary was Martha's sister. And so the two families sailed from Liverpool together on the ship *Clara Wheeler* in November 1854 in a group of some 400 new converts to the church.

Before the families could cross the plain to Utah Territory, however, William's widow Mary and four of her children died in an outbreak of cholera. John and Martha took the two remaining children – Emma and Thomas - and subsequently brought them up as their own. John and Martha settled in Salt Lake county where they had a farm and brewery. In 1868 Emma married John Gabbott and they settled nearby in Sugar House. After only 10 years of marriage, however, Emma died of pneumonia. Her husband wrote in his journal,

As her spirit was leaving her body I kissed her cold lips and bid her good-bye until we should meet again. And at that very moment I received the assurance as though her spirit whispered to mine that it was all well with her and know if I am faithful we shall meet again never more to part, for she was sealed to me for time and eternity by God's servants on the earth, holding the ever lasting priesthood. She will come forth in the morning of the first resurrection, for that is the promise to the Saints of God who are sealed in the new and everlasting covenant and keep their covenants they have made with God. May I prove faithful and true to my God that I may be worthy to meet her in that world where sin and death can never come."

John Gabbott remarried, but kept in touch with Emma's family. In 1888 he again recorded in his journal:

“my first wife’s uncle and foster father [John Twigg] had not enjoyed good health for 20 years. His wife survives him. It was their habit, while my (second) wife was sick to come over in the evening and stay til bed time. The evening of his death they stayed till 9:15. Went home apparently in his usual health, although not feeling well, was taken with pain in his side, supposed to be his heart and died before his wife realized that death was so near.”



Martha survived her husband by 16 years and died in Salt Lake City August 11, 1904.

Martha Twigg (need Reed)

Stories about this place:

In 2017 when this site was being researched and documented, it came to light that Brandy Brook was the site where several members of the Swansea Ward (Merthyr Tydfil Wales Stake) owned holiday caravans [trailer homes], without knowing anything of the history of the mill. This included the Stake President of the time, Ian Govier and his wife Stefanie, who had owned their caravan for more than 20 years and whose children had played among the ruins of the mill. This is noteworthy because the site is in a particularly secluded spot and not particularly close to the coast as many of the most popular caravan sites are.

Sources for this historical information

<http://welshmormon.byu.edu> for the biography of John Twigg, son of Thomas, and missionary journal of Daniel Williams

Alys Daye, owner [2017] of the Brandy Brook caravan and camping park where Stoper Mill was located.

British Mission History 1841 – 1971 for details of John Twigg’s callings in the Cuffern Mountain branch at: <https://eadview.lds.org/findingaid/001072964/>

www.familysearch.org

Your Name: Jill Morgan